

Application No.: 10/705,407

Docket No.: 20050/0200481-USO

REMARKS**Pending Claims**

Claims 1-20 are pending. On November 7, 2003, a preliminary amendment was filed to eliminate multiple dependent claims and to add new claims (claims 14-20) to compensate for the deleted multiple dependent claims. In the Office Action, only claims 1-13 have been considered. It appears that only original claims 1-13 in the original specification and not the claims in the preliminary amendment were considered. Applicants respectfully request that all claims be considered including the new claims added by the Preliminary Amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended based on the description and drawings of the present specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Applicants amended Claim 10 (and claim 18) to further define that a "mini sheet piece" is a sheet that is attached to the opposite side face of the interlabial pad. The definition is, for example, supported on page 8 of the specification which defines the mini sheet piece as "an attachment to the outside of said interlabial pad and may form a sac or bridge together with the interlabial pad" and supported also by Fig. 16, which shows a mini sheet piece 80 attached to the opposite side face of the interlabial pad. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §101

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC §101 for being an improper process claim. Claim 13 has been canceled, and therefore, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

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Application No.: 10/705,407

Docket No.: 20050/0200481-USO

Claim 9, which depends from claim 1, is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited prior art references for at least the same reason as claim 1. Wray et al. also does not disclose, teach or suggest a low friction shape with fine changes on its surface to reduce friction.

Claims 14-20, which depend from claim 1 directly or indirectly, are also not anticipated by or obvious from the cited prior art references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Subject Matter Deemed to be Allowable

Claims 3-5 have been deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims without amendments are believed to be allowable also for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: September 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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